

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a voice-based telecommunications device, comprising:

(a) monitoring the voice-based telecommunications device for an on-hook state;
and

5 (b) when the on-hook state is detected, automatically resetting at least one acoustic characteristic to a predetermined level, wherein, when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user and wherein the acoustic parameter comprises a volume setting of a speaker of the device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

(c) monitoring the voice-based telecommunications device for an off-hook state;
and

(d) when the off-hook state is detected, performing steps (a) and (b).

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[1]]2, wherein the monitoring step (a) comprises comparing a magnitude of an electrical parameter of the voice-based telecommunications device to a predetermined value and wherein the electrical parameter is an electrical current flowing to a handset of the device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

(c) when the on- and/or off-hook state is detected, altering the state of a state indicator; and wherein the resetting step (b) comprises detecting the altered state of the

5 state indicator and resetting the acoustic parameter to the predetermined level in response thereto.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein in the automatically resetting step (b) the acoustic parameter is decreased to the predetermined level.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the predetermined level is user adjustable.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the acoustic parameter is ~~volume~~reset by a logic module in the handset of the device.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein, ~~when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user~~the at least acoustic parameter is not automatically reset while the voice-based telecommunications device is in the off-hook state.

9. (Currently Amended) A voice-based telecommunications device, comprising:

a state detector that detects an on-hook state of the telecommunications device;

and

5 when the on-hook state is detected, an automatic reset that automatically resets at least one acoustic characteristic of the voice-based telecommunications device to a predetermined level, wherein, when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of Claim 9, wherein when the off-hook state is detected, the state detector then monitors the voice-based telecommunications device for the on-hook state.

11. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 9, wherein the state detector compares an electrical parameter of the telecommunications device to a predetermined value to determine when the state is on-hook and wherein the electrical parameter is an electrical current flowing to a handset of the device.

12. (Original) The device of Claim 9, further comprising:
a state indicator that indicates in a first mode the on-hook state is and in a second mode an off-hook state.

13. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 9, wherein the acoustic parameter is one or more of speaker volume, frequency response contour, and audio compression.

14. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 9, wherein, ~~when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user~~ the at least acoustic parameter is not automatically reset while the voice-based telecommunications device is in the off-hook state.

15. (Original) The device of Claim 9, wherein the acoustic parameter is associated with at least one of a receive signal, a transmit signal, and a side tone signal.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 9, wherein the telecommunication device further comprises a power source and an amplifier, wherein the at least one acoustic parameter is a speaker volume of a handset of the device.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling operation of a telecommunications device, comprising:

detecting means for detecting an on-hook state of the telecommunications device;
and

5 resetting means for automatically resetting at least one acoustic characteristic of the telecommunications device to a predetermined level, when the on-hook state is detected by the detecting means, wherein, when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the detecting means in a first mode detects the on-hook state and in a second, different mode, detects an off-hook state.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 17, wherein the detecting means compares an electrical parameter of the telecommunications device to a predetermined value, wherein the electrical parameter is a magnitude of an electrical current flowing to a handset of the device, and wherein the acoustic parameter is speaker volume.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 17, further comprising:
when the on-hook state is detected, altering means for altering the state of a state indicator; and wherein the resetting means detects the altered state of the state indicator and resets the acoustic parameter to the predetermined level in response thereto.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 17 wherein the resetting means increases the acoustic parameter to the predetermined level.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the predetermined level is user adjustable.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the acoustic parameter is at least one of volume, frequency response contour, and audio compression.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 17, ~~wherein, when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user~~the at least acoustic parameter is not automatically reset while the voice-based telecommunications device is in the off-hook state.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 17, wherein the acoustic parameter is associated with at least one of a receive signal, a transmit signal, and a side tone signal.